



March 17, 2014

Jane Driskell, State Budget Director
Office of State Budget Director
284 Capitol Annex
702 Capitol Avenue
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Director Driskell:

I am writing on behalf of the Kentucky Physical Therapy Association (KPTA), representing over 1,300 physical therapists, physical therapist assistants and students who live and work in our great Commonwealth. Our association has concerns regarding Governor Steven Beshear's proposed 2014-2016 biennium budget.

The proposed budget mandates a 5% cut to the budgets for state agencies, including our licensing board, the Kentucky Board of Physical Therapy ("Board"). If approved this would result in a transfer of \$100,000 from the Board budget in 2015 and an additional \$100,000 in 2016.

While we sympathize with the current economy, we are concerned about how these cuts will affect the operation of our Board and our licensees. The funds under consideration were paid as a fee by the credential-holders for the purpose of administering the Board. It is difficult to understand why they are being diverted to other purposes, especially at a time of health system changes that make professional accountability critically important.

When our Board's funds were transferred in 2009 (totaling \$175,000) this resulted in a 30% increase of our license fees. This was followed by further transfers from restricted agency accounts in 2011 and 2012. The proposed budget cuts and funding transfers of \$100,000 in each of two consecutive years may necessitate additional increases which will adversely affect our therapists who are already operating in an uncertain economy. In effect, licensees will be



KPTA

Kentucky
Physical Therapy
Association

asked to pay more for activities for which they have already paid because the Commonwealth has transferred in excess of \$407,000 from the Board's account.

We are also concerned about how the cuts will affect the administration of our Board. Our Board currently operates within office space they have outgrown. Additionally, they need to upgrade their technology in light of the advances in the past decade; some operating systems are ten years old and outdated. The speculative nature of their funding may also affect a non-merit staff position.

We understand the Kentucky Board of Physical Therapy has also commented on the proposal, and we support the points articulated by the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and share our concerns. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Michael Muscarella, PT, DPT

Michael Muscarella, PT, DPT
President



American Physical Therapy Association